Dublin, March 30. 1860

Dear Mr Thom, Having a little spare time lately for the first time for some months I had a general Review of my Standards. You will see the result in the enclosed Abstract. I can therefore with perfect truth tell you that your letter was completely correct. You told me there would be no chance of making the Set - but I barely possible that I may have the Series number or even duplicates of them left. I think a good many duplicates do exist, determining that in the Lots of the worst there should be one specimen of each Standard as nearly complete as possible. I send you a copy of my Catalogue, but it is rather formidable, but I could not number them that I may at least know whether I find anything to a Letter entirely out of the question. On the other hand I there [illegible] you [illegible] I knew the best I could study

contribute towards it.

I send you herewith a part of Douglas's speech in the Senate on the Kansas question. The reply is not to the speech which he answers — but the spirit is so different & so characteristic! It is malignant, petulant, vituperative, ungentlemanly — and exactly such eloquence as delights an educated audience in this country. I admit that the Constitution is what Douglas represents it to be, and think he does not prove, I say, that then! No matter what it means, if the whole nation in all its parts for all its representatives, legislative, & judicial say that it means the exact contrary, and act as if they thought so, I cannot see what anti-slavery work is to be effected by such a man in such a spirit. He does not point out to us

can devise how they can help the cause themselves, or to show they are ~~thoroughly~~ to look on its promoters. I have reason to believe that in private he is an enthusiast as he can be — and that he shapes himself to his company. Mr Holmes of Wakefield is on a visit with me just now [poor fellow! he is in very poor health] and when he spoke in reprobation of the practice of denouncing anti-slavery people on account of differences on religious points, Douglass said he was not John.

I know you think Douglass should not be noticed. But I do not see how we can avoid doing our best to place what we regard as the right view before our friends and those who are willing to listen to us. The Leeds Young men are I think the right and are doing a good work. I would like one of the Photographs of Hachette Bust of Brown whenever you can send it

MS. B. I, b. 15. P. 55

Some time ago I think I wrote to say that Mrs Palmer wishes for Irish Herald for half a year in order to have the reports of the approaching conference. If you let me know the subscription I will pay. The papers may be sent to Dr Palmer, Parade, Waterford. Judging from the Australian papers and the character of Lewis's speech & the unsparing subservient and time serving character of Northern politicians I am unable to see what hope there is for Ireland in the future — or what indications there is that John Brown was kind or died. The north is like a beaten hound in the presence of Southern cruelty, bravado & villainy. I envy the good hopers. Yours ever

Richd D Webb

Mr. B. I. G. VII/5, p. 55